



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
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JON S. CORZINE
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HEATHER HOWARD
Commissioner

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Dear Colleague:

This is to inform you that the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has recently revised the administrative rules N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 with substantive changes to include the requirement of four new vaccines for school, preschool and licensed child-care center attendance in September 2008. We encourage both private and Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program providers who provide care to commercially insured children to order enough vaccine to meet the higher demand anticipated due to the new vaccine requirements.

The rule changes include a four day grace period for all childhood vaccines which became effective on January 7, 2008. These changes were formally adopted by the New Jersey Public Health Council on October 9, 2007 and published in the *New Jersey Register* on January 7, 2008. The amended regulations in N.J.A.C 8:57-4 state the following:

8:57-4.10 Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine

- (h) Every child born on or after January 1, 1997, and entering or attending Grade Six, or a comparable age level special education program with an unassigned grade on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) given no earlier than the 10th birthday.
- (i) Children entering or attending Grade Six on or after September 1, 2008, who received a Td booster dose less than five years prior to entry or attendance shall not be required to receive a Tdap dose until five years have elapsed from the last DTP/DTaP or Td dose.
- (j) Children born on or after January 1, 1997, and transferring into a New Jersey school from another state or country after September 1, 2008, shall have received one dose of Tdap, provided at least five years have elapsed from the last documented Td dose.

8:57-4.18 Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine

- (a) Every child two months through 11 months of age enrolling in or attending any licensed child-care center or preschool facility on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received a minimum of two age-appropriate doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), or fewer as medically-appropriate for the child's age according to the ACIP recommendations, incorporated herein by reference, as amended and supplemented.
- (b) Every child 12 months through 59 months of age enrolling in or attending a licensed child-care center on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received at least one dose of PCV on or after their first birthday. (Note: Preschool was left out in the current rules that were published in the NJ Register on January 7, 2008. NJDHSS plans to correct the error in the upcoming rulemaking).

8:57-4.19 Influenza vaccine

Children six months through 59 months of age attending any licensed child-care center or preschool facility on or after September 1, 2008, shall annually receive at least one dose of influenza vaccine between September 1 and December 31 of each year.

8:57-4.20 Meningococcal vaccine

- (a) Every child born on or after January 1, 1997, and entering or attending Grade Six or a comparable age level special education program with an unassigned grade on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received one dose of a meningococcal-containing vaccine, such as the medically-preferred meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

**Please note: This applies to students when they turn 11 years of age and attending Grade Six.*

- (b) Every child born on or after January 1, 1997, and transferring into a New Jersey school from another state or country on or after September 1, 2008, shall have received one dose of meningococcal vaccine.

8:57-4.23 Optimal immunization recommendations – 4 Day Grace Period

- (b) All vaccine doses included within, and mandated by, this subchapter that are administered less than or equal to four days before either the specified product label minimum age or dose spacing interval shall be counted as valid and shall not require revaccination in order to enter or remain in a school, preschool, or licensed child-care facility.

Schools are encouraged to send a notice home to parents informing them of the new requirements to assure compliance at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.

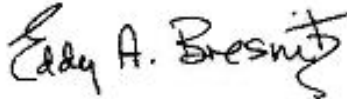
To access N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 Chapter 14 *Immunization for Pupils in School* which provides information on all vaccination requirements go to: <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/chap14.pdf>

Currently, the amended regulations on the four new vaccines along with the public comment dialogue can be accessed at http://www.njiis.nj.gov/docs/new%20jersey_register_40NJR151a.pdf. These new requirements will be updated on the online version of Chapter 14 in the near future.

An immunization guidance grid is also available on-line at <http://nj.gov/health/forms/imm-7.pdf>

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Vaccine Preventable Disease Program (VPDP) at (609) 588-7512. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in the implementation of the amended regulations.

Sincerely,



Eddy A. Bresnitz, M.D., M.S.
Deputy Commissioner/State Epidemiologist
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